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### RAILROADS IMPROVE OPERATIONS

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CONCRETE TIES TO BE MADE DOMESTICALLY -- Rad, No 210, 3 Sep 49

A large factory will be built in Yugoslavia for the production of a maximum of 12,000 reinforced concrete railroad ties per shift. Most of the necessary machinery has been built by Yugoslav specialists. This factory will be one of the largest enterprises in the Yugoslav railroad industry.

The reinforced concrete railroad tie was invented by Engineer Zivadin Radojkovic. Elasticity of the connection between the rail and the tie is assured by the insertion of a specially shaped plate of a new plastic material. This plastic can be made in Yugoslav factories of Yugoslav materials.

Reinforced concrete ties are much cheaper than those made of beech and oak, which are scarce on the world market.

REBUILT SHIP MAKES FIRST VOYAGE -- Vjesnik, No 1359, 13 Sep 49

Split -- The SS Hrvatska, formerly the Lawrence Victory, is one of the most modern vessels in the Yugoslav merchant marine. On 11 September the Hrvatska sailed from the "Vicko Krstulovic" Shipyard on its first test voyage.

The Hrvatska has a capacity of 10,350 tons or 7,908 gross register tons. Powered by 6,000-horsepower oil-burning turbines, it can attain a speed of 16 knots. The Hrvatska is 137 meters long with a beam of 20 meters and a height of 10½ meters above the water line. It has modern loading and unloading equipment, including ten 5-ton cranes.

The ship was built in North America in 1945. In 1947 it struck a mine off Dubrovnik and was abandoned by its crew. Its owners considered it beyond repair and sold it to the Yugoslav government. The ship was towed with great difficulty into the small port of Viganj and then to the "Vicko Krstulovic" Shipyard, where it has been undergoing repairs ever since. Despite shortages of equipment and skilled and unskilled labor, the reconstruction was completed on schedule.

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